

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Attorney Docket No. 2005_1029A
Yuichi FUJIOKA et al. : **Confirmation No. 9262**
Serial No. 10/540,974 : Group Art Unit 1736
Filed June 27, 2005 : Examiner Daniel McCracken
PRODUCING METHOD AND APPARATUS : **Mail Stop: AMENDMENT**
OF CARBON NANOFIBERS

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

A Suspension of Action for three months was requested on November 22, 2010. The present remarks are filed prior to the expiration of the suspension of action, and thus, should be entered and considered, in accordance with MPEP § 709(I)(B).

This submission is further to the Response Filed Concurrently with RCE, filed November 22, 2010, and is in response to the Final Rejection of May 20, 2010.

As discussed on pages 2 and 3 of the previous response, Applicants' claim 1 requires a method for producing carbon nanofibers, comprising causing the carbon nanofibers to grow on surfaces of closely packed fine particles, wherein a void ratio of each of the closely packed fine particles is 10% or less, recovering the closely packed fine particles, and separating the carbon nanofibers from the surfaces of the closely packed fine particles by a physical process to recover the carbon nanofibers.

Thus, the void ratio of the closely packed fine particle in Applicants' invention is defined as 10% or less, regardless of the material thereof, and the particle is closely packed, i.e., of high strength. (See page 10, line 19 to page 11, line 9 of Applicants' original specification.) Thus, it is possible to prevent a part of the surface of the support (the fine particle) from being peeled off together with the carbon nanotube (CNT), when the CNT is physically separated from the surface of the catalyst support (page 11, lines 6 to 9).